

Statement of Principles for the Appointment of a Permanent Chancellor and Provost

September 15, 2015

In response to President Timothy L. Killeen who requested input from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) senators on the procedures and possible names of a new Interim Chancellor for our campus, a group of concerned senators met and sent a letter on August 10, 2015 to the President with our recommendations. This letter serves as the basis of the “Statement of Principles for the Appointment of a Permanent Chancellor and Provost.”

Along with many of our senate colleagues, we are committed to the vital principles of academic freedom, shared governance, transparency, labor rights, and social justice.

We are therefore registering the following concerns and principles that are imperative to the selection of a permanent chancellor and addressing the ongoing crisis on our campus:

- Chancellor Phyllis Wise and Provost Ilesanmi Adesida have resigned in the wake of a growing crisis caused many believed by efforts to subvert, circumvent, and ignore the principles of shared governance. Some current and former Senate leaders are implicated in these matters. They should play no formal role in the selection of a permanent Chancellor and Provost.
- The Recommendations of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure concerning the firing of Dr. Steven Salaita and the Final Report of the Hiring Policies and Procedures Review Committee, both approved by the full Senate, must be implemented in full.
- The devastation of the American Indian Studies Program (AIS), catalyzed by the firing of Dr. Salaita, and the marked decline in African American undergraduate student enrollment are perhaps the most egregious effects of what has occurred at UIUC over the past year especially, but over the course of Dr. Wise’s tenure.* These developments epitomize the chronic climate of racism on campus, as well as an overlapping failure to comprehend and address the health of the humanities, with the Departments of African American Studies, Asian American Studies, Gender & Women’s Studies, and Latina/Latino Studies and the AIS Program taking the blunt force of deeply rooted problems that impact every sector of the campus. The new chancellor should oversee the restoration of American Indian Studies, and ensure the recruitment and retention of historically under-represented students and faculty.
- The Interim Chancellor must take vigorous steps to remove UIUC’s administration from the censure list of the American Association of University Professors. This effort must involve substantive consultation with the rank and file of the Senate and voices from those across the campus whose undervaluation has helped bring us to this juncture.
- The toxic atmosphere that has been fomented on campus is still being displayed in the University administration’s efforts to stymie the good faith collective bargaining work of our staff, graduate employees, and non-tenure track faculty unions. This must end now.

UIUC is at a crossroads. The University’s reputation for academic excellence and its ability to fulfill its mission as a land grant, public institution are at stake. We call upon our new President to establish a clear set of expectations that our new leadership will uphold. These are the values

and practices of academic freedom, transparency, accountability, integrity, and respect for shared governance at all levels of university functioning. Living up to these values makes it imperative to transform the cultures of exclusion and racism on campus. We look forward to working with President Timothy Killeen Acting Chancellor Barbara Wilson to achieve these goals.

Teresa Barnes, History
Angelina Cotler, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Hadi Esfahani, Economics
Christopher C. Fennell, Anthropology
Shawn Gilmore, English
Jessica Greenberg, Anthropology
Chris R. Higgins, Education Policy, Organization & Leadership
Laurie Johnson, Germanic Languages and Literatures
Bruce Levine, History
Christy Lleras, Human Development and Family Studies
Erik S. McDuffie, African American Studies/Asian American Studies
Harriet L. Murav, Slavic Languages and Literatures
Chantel Nadeau, Gender & Women's Studies
Kathryn Oberdeck, History
Jesse Ribot, Geography
Rolando J. Romero, Latina/Latino Studies
D. Fairchild Ruggles, Landscape Architecture
Gisela Sin, Political Science
Gabriel Solis, Music
Mark Steinberg, History
Robert Warrior, American Indian Studies

*Although this year's first year class counts 475 African American students--an increase of 33% over last year--the black student population still makes up just 6% of the campus population and less than the goals set by the Project 500 target established in 1968. African Americans comprise about 15% of the state population. *News-Gazette* 25 September 2015.